GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:358
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of Government`s efforts the posts of Doctors are lying vacant in rural areas;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to appoint private practitioners in order to provide medical treatment to rural population as Government doctors generally are not inclined to work in rural areas;

(c) whether the Government propose to start a new three year diploma course for High School pass students who are to be posted in rural and tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of doctors in some of the Health Centres in rural areas.The appointments/postings of doctors in Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres and other rural hospitals is the responsibility of respective State Governments. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regularly reviews the position and advises the State Governments to take appropriate steps to fill up the vacancies. However, State Governments may not always proceed in this matter with a similar sense of urgency. Sometimes, State Governments have their own problems.

(b) The Central Council of Health and Family Welfare in its 6th conference in 1999, has resolved that, `decentralized recruitment be resorted to fill up vacancies and local bodies may be authorized by State Governments/UTs to recruit doctors even on contract basis.` State Governments have accordingly been advised to take appropriate action in this matter.

In order to meet unmet needs for trained health care personnel within the primary health care system and to provide for emergency obstetric care, Government of India has facilitated engaging on a hiring basis anesthetists at the rate of Rs.1000 per case.Similarly, in order to provide for essential obstetric care at primary health care levels, Government of India has enabled some State Governments to engage on contract, private practitioners (lady doctors and specialists) at the rate of Rs.500 a day. Additionally, in many States non government organisations are also providing clinical services to meet the unmet needs. National Population Policy, 2000 also envisages accrediting private practitioners and assigning to them satellite population for providing reproductive and child health services.

(c)&(d): At present there is no such proposal under consideration. However, National Population Policy 2000, envisages the revival of the earlier system of Licensed Medical Practitioners, who after appropriate certificates from Indian Medical Associations, may participate in the provision of clinical services.